

Maryland Regulation Summary for Seafood Dealers 2021-2022

Blue Crabs

Size:

Male Hard Crabs	Soft Crabs	Peelers
Bay 5" (4/1 – 7/14) 5 ¼" (7/15-12/15)	3 ½"	3 ¼" (4/1 – 7/14)
Atlantic – 5"		3 ½" (7/15 – 12/15)

Season:

Bay – 4/1 – 12/15

Atlantic – 4/1 – 10/31

Female Importation:

Dates established by public notice in March/April ([2021](#))

Striped Bass

Seasons:

Bay - pound net: 6/1 – 12/31; haul seine: 6/1 – 2/28; gill net: 12/1 – 2/28; hook and line: 6/1 – 12/31 (ITQ), 6/1 – 11/30 (CP)

Atlantic - all gears: 10/1 – 5/31

Sizes:

Bay – Min. 18" & Max. 36"

Atlantic – Min. 24"

Tag Colors:

2021: Common Pool – White; ITQ – Blue; Atlantic – Red

2022: Common Pool – Orange; ITQ – Yellow; Atlantic – Green

Oysters

Season: All gears except power dredge: 10/1 – 3/31; Power dredge: 11/1 – 3/31

Sizes: 3" for wild caught and aquaculture oysters (submerged lease 10/1-3/31); 2" for aquaculture oysters (submerged lease 4/1 – 9/30 and water column lease year round)

*Each bushel of oysters must be tagged with the appropriate wild fishery tag or aquaculture tag.

Open Fishing Seasons (Most Commonly Sold Fish)

Yellow Perch: 12/1 – 3/31

Summer Flounder: 1/1 – 12/31

Black Sea Bass: 1/1 – 12/31

Spiny Dogfish: 5/1 – 4/30

Tautog: 1/1 – 5/15 and 7/1 – 12/31

Spanish Mackerel: No closure

Red Drum: No closure

Black Drum: Not open in Coastal bays, No closure in Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean

Croaker: 3/16 – 12/31

Catfish: No closure

NOTE: Seasons may be subject to close by public notice (notices available [HERE](#))

Quick Contacts for Maryland Fisheries:

Regulations: Jacob Holtz 410-260-8262

Penalties: Karla Schaffer 410-260-8608

Legislation: Sarah Widman 410-260-8266

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Striped Bass: Chris Jones 410-260-8293

Crabs: Genine McClair 410-260-8270

Oysters: Chris Judy 410-260-8259

Aquaculture: Karl Roscher 410-260-8313